

The Status Report

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MCSW Sets Plan for Fiscal Year 2009

On Thursday, June 5th the Commissioners and staff of the MCSW gathered at Bunker Hill Community College for a day-long planning session to set priorities and goals for the upcoming fiscal year. There was much discussion around which issues and topics the MCSW should focus in the next 12 months.

The Commissioners and staff took into consideration conversations with constituents and testimony presented at MCSW-hosted public hearings and felt the MCSW could best contribute in the following areas:

Pay Equity

Despite taking on the new challenges of supporting statewide initiatives to prevent domestic violence and teen pregnancy, the MCSW will continue to be at the forefront of the Commonwealth's efforts to achieve pay equity for women through its work as the lead on the Massachusetts Coalition for Women's Wage Equality.

Domestic Violence Awareness

At the March 26th Public Hearing at UMASS-Amherst the MCSW heard several women discuss the rise in domestic violence deaths in the Commonwealth. This led the Commission to decide that now is the time to invest its resources into research and raising awareness about this issue in conjunction with organizations such as Jane Doe, Inc. and many others.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Prompted by the publicity surrounding pregnant teens and solidified by the definitive knowledge that this is an issue of genuine concern throughout the Commonwealth, the MCSW will join forces with the state's many organizations focusing on this issue. According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancies, one third of the nation's girls become pregnant by the age of 20, the highest rate among fully industrialized nations. With sixty percent of pregnant teens not finishing high school, and many struggling financially for the rest of their lives because of a lack of education and resources, the MCSW views this as an important issue on which to focus its efforts.

In addition to maintaining a focus on these three important issues, the MCSW will continue to augment its online database, the **Massachusetts Women's Resource and Referral Network**. Agencies and organizations dedicated to raising awareness about and preventing domestic violence and teen pregnancy are encouraged to log on to www.mcswnetwork.com and add themselves as Providers to ensure that the MWRRN has all of the resources available on these topics.

The MCSW will also continue to expand its regionalization project by holding regional dialogues across the Commonwealth on the above issues. In addition the MCSW will work to establish self-sustaining regional councils and commissions that meet regularly and focus on region-specific topics of interest and concern.

The Commissioners and staff of the MCSW look forward to the upcoming year and tackling this ambitious and rewarding plan.

Inside This Issue

Executive Director's Corner	2
Executive Director Job Posting	3
Interim Director Announced	3
Fall Internship Opportunities	4
Upcoming Events	5

Proud Member of the



Executive Director's Corner

It is with equal parts wistfulness and excitement for the future that I step down as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women after 5 1/2 years. It has been a privilege to be able to serve the women of the Commonwealth in this capacity. It has been a pleasure to work with so many dedicated Commissioners, collaborative partners and the best staff in the state.

I am proud of the many accomplishments that we have been able to achieve together during my tenure, including:

Finances:

- Growing the MCSW's operating budget from \$145,000 to over \$250,000
- Creating a Trust Fund to diversify income stream and raising over \$60,000

Legislation:

- Creating commitment to pay equity
- Endorsing and actively advocated for 17 pieces of legislation
- Creating the *Platform for Political Action*

Producing Original Research:

- Real Cuts, Real People, Real Pain: The Effects of the Fiscal Crisis on Women & Girls in MA
- State of Women: A County By County Report on Women and Girls in MA

Statewide Outreach:

- Creating and implementing a Regional Council Network
- Creating the MCSW Speakers Bureau
- Holding 10 statewide public hearings
- Helping to create three Women's Commissions

Events:

- Creating the MCSW's signature event, the Unsung Heroine initiative, honoring hundreds of women across the state
- Co-sponsoring the Massachusetts Conference for Women, attended by over 12,000 people

Resources:

- Creating the Massachusetts Women's Resource and Referral Network
- Publishing the "How to Get Appointed to Boards and Commissions" handbook

Key Partnerships/Collaborations:

- Massachusetts Coalition for Women's Wage Equality
- MassGAP
- State of Women Address at State House
- New England Women's Political Summit
- National Association of Commissions for Women
 - Won national achievement award

Operations:

- Growing staff from two to five
- Hosting 46 interns

Transitions are a necessary, a healthy part of growth. I wish the Commission the very best as it enters its second decade of existence. And while we have accomplished much, much work remains. The MCSW mission of advancing Massachusetts women to full equality in all areas of life remains as pertinent today as the day it was developed. In the words of suffragette Alice Paul, "*When you put your hand to the plow, you can't put it down until you get to the end of the row.*"

Keep fighting the good fight – the women of Massachusetts deserve nothing less.



MCSW Opens Search for Executive Director

With the departure of former Executive Director Linda Brantley, the MCSW is now searching for its next Executive Director. Applications will be accepted until October 10th. Below is a list of the preferred qualifications for applicants. To view the complete job listing, please visit www.mass.gov/women.

JOB POSTING: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director is the senior staff person of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. (MCSW) The Executive Director directs, plans, and coordinates the implementation of programs and activities developed by the MCSW Commissioners and supervises all staff and interns. The Executive Director works with the full Commission to develop priorities and then implements, manages, and evaluates the activities. The Executive Director reports directly to the Chair of the Commission.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Professional experience working with women's issues and public policy.
- Demonstrated analytical, writing, grant writing, fundraising, and public speaking abilities and experience.
- Thorough knowledge of public relations principles and practices; with media experience.
- Minimum 5 years senior management experience with substantial background in administration of a program or an agency.
- Proven effectiveness in managing programs, budgets, contracts, staff, and volunteers.
- Considerable experience with the legislative process and state government.
- Strong interpersonal skills with a proven ability to collaborate with diverse groups and individuals.

Salary and Benefits: Salary Range \$60-\$70,000 / Commensurate with Experience
85/15 Employer/Employee Health Insurance Coverage
Garage Parking Available

To Apply:

Mail resume and cover letter by September 15, 2008 to:

Chair Marianne Fleckner
Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women
Charles F. Hurley Building
19 Staniford St, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02114-2502

Or email to:

MCSW@state.ma.us

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Please note: Resumes should include professional references with contact information.

MCSW is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Commission Names Outreach Coordinator Ashton as Interim Director



The MCSW has named Outreach Coordinator Jill Ashton as the Interim Director of the MCSW. Ashton began her work with the Commission as an intern during the academic year of 2004-2005 and has served the Commission in the capacity of Outreach Coordinator for three years.

Ashton received bachelor degrees in English and Women's Studies at Hobart and William Smith College in Geneva, New York and in 2005 she earned a Graduate Certificate focusing on Women in Politics and Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts-Boston.

In addition to her work with the MCSW, Ashton is an active Mass. NOW board member serving as the Vice President of Legislation and as Sectary of the Betty Taymor Scholarship Fund.

A native of Marshfield, Massachusetts, Ashton currently lives in Cambridge.

MCSW Seeks Interns for Fall Semester



The MCSW is a small organization with a huge charge. Therefore we are always seeking interns and volunteers to assist us in achieving our goals and meeting the needs of Massachusetts' women. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints all positions are unpaid; however we encourage college students to intern at MCSW for college course credits. Please contact our office to discuss the opportunities present below.

Legislative responsibilities may include:

Researching and monitoring state and national legislation that affects women
Outreach to other organizations or groups involved with issues of concern to women
Supporting activities of the Commission's Legislative Committee

Outreach/Advocacy responsibilities may include:

- Assisting with the coordination of regional dialogues
- Supporting activities of the Outreach and Advocacy Committee

Event Planning (Unsung Heroine celebration) responsibilities may include:

- Researching sponsorship opportunities
- Solicitation of honoree nominations
- Promoting the event
- Coordinating event logistics

Communications/Publications/Web Design responsibilities may include:

- Writing & distributing press releases and media advisories, updating and/or creating media lists, and obtaining media coverage
- Assisting with the Commission's monthly newsletter
- Contributing to the redesign of the website

MA Women's Resource and Referral Network responsibilities may include:

- Updating the Commission's statewide resources and corresponding databases
- Outreach to organizations to build the referral database and to establish ongoing lines of communication and relationships

Research responsibilities may include:

- Conducting research on the status of women in Massachusetts

Fundraising responsibilities may include:

- Researching potential alternative sources of funding
- Grant writing

General responsibilities include:

- Supporting Commissioners and staff on ongoing projects and events
- Assisting staff with the day-to-day operations of the Commission office

There is a minimum commitment of 16 hrs per week required. For consideration, please indicate which intern position you are applying for, include your areas of academic and personal interest, and forward your cover letter and resume to Outreach Coordinator/Interim Director, Jill Ashton at Jill.Ashton@state.ma.us.

Take Action. Get Educated. Get Involved.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the movement to advance women in the Commonwealth you can start by attending any one of the number of events and meetings taking place across the state in the coming weeks.

Tuesday, September 23 (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.): Women for Hire Boston Career Expo

Location: Sheraton Boston (39 Dalton Street, Boston)

Details: Renew your energy, your optimism, and your vow to make your career goals happen. Experts may say that companies aren't hiring, but we say we know top employers across industries that are eager to hire qualified professional women within their organizations and we are getting them all together in one room to meet you. A partial list of employers who will be in attendance includes: Comcast, NSTAR, Talbots, Raytheon, Best Buy and more! Admission is free and includes free resume critiquing. A resume and business attire are required for admission. Please visit the Women for Hire website at www.womenforhire.com/career_expos/fall_08/boston for more information.

The Money Conference

A project of State Treasurer Timothy P. Cahill

presented by Treasurer Tim Cahill in conjunction with the YWCA. Financial choices are becoming more complex and without a formal system to develop financial education for the general public, ongoing vigilance is necessary to ensure that this financial education initiative and similar private and public financial educators continue to meet their important objectives. The Money Conferences deliver an array of workshops that offer attendees a path to begin living a financially responsible lifestyle and acquaint attendees with organizations and literature that offer ongoing assistance in reaching financial goals. The Conference will focus on money management, retirement and investment strategies for all ages, racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds, and levels of financial knowledge. **Registration opens on August 18th** at www.themoneyconference.com or call 617-367-6900.

Saturday, September 27 (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.): Money Conference for Women & Families

Location: Reggie Lewis Athletic Center, Roxbury Community College (1350 Tremont Street, Roxbury Crossing)

Details: The Money Conference is a FREE conference

Thursday, October 2 (5:00 to 7:30 p.m.): Jane Doe Inc. Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Location: The Atrium at John Hancock (601 Congress Street, Boston)

Details: Jane Doe Inc. will celebrate their 30th Anniversary with its Honorary Guest Speaker, First Lady of the Commonwealth Diane Patrick. Individual tickets for this event are \$130 and can be purchased online through JDI's website at www.janedoe.org/voices2008. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Thursday, October 23 (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.): MA Alliance on Teen Pregnancy Conference & Annual Meeting

Location: DCU Center (Worcester)

Details: 2008 Teen Pregnancy Institute: Expanding Opportunities for Youth and Young Families

The MA Alliance on Teen Pregnancy's statewide conference and annual meeting will feature Keynote speaker, Nicole Lynn Lewis (www.nicoleink.com). Visit the Alliance's website at www.massteenpregnancy.org for more information and registration options.



Thursday, December 11
Boston Convention & Exhibition Center

Massachusetts
Conference
for Women
maconferenceforwomen.org

Thursday, December 11 (7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.): Massachusetts Conference for Women

Location: Boston Convention and Exhibition Center

Details: The Massachusetts Conference for Women, hosted in conjunction with the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, is a non-profit, non-partisan, one-day event where Massachusetts women can connect, learn practical and professional strategies from nationally recognized experts, and network with peers. Now in its fourth year, this upcoming Conference promises

to be more exciting, more educational and more inspiring than ever with dynamic speakers and panelists who are eager to share their experiences and opinions with participants of all ages, from all across the state. The Conference will honor inspiring women with our Be the Change Award, and attendees will hear first hand how the Conference is making a difference in people's lives. Nominate a woman for the Be the Change Award and register for the Conference by visiting www.maconferenceforwomen.org.

Do you have an event you would like to see on this list in an upcoming issue of The Status Report? E-mail the details to Program Coordinator Kim Sebastiao at Kimberly.Sebastiao@state.ma.us and we will do our best to include your event in our next issue.

Commission Officers & Members

Ruth Bramson, Dover
Linda Cavaoli, Worcester
Helen Corbett, Middleton
Deborah DiMasi, Boston
Erika Ebbel, Cambridge
Donna Finneran, Mattapan

Marianne Fleckner, Chair, Westford

Catherine Greene, Esq., Secretary, Brighton

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Helen Jackson, MD, W. Roxbury
Angela Menino, Hyde Park
Pam Malumphy, Pittsfield
Madhu Sridhar, Andover

Greer Tan Swiston, Treasurer, Newton

Commission Staff

Jill Ashton, Outreach Coordinator/Interim Director
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Darlene Kelter, Administrative Assistant

Commission Interns

Erta Kokalari, *Bunker Hill Community College*



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**Do you have questions or comments about this
newsletter? If so, please contact**

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